

Segment 6 - Avon to Hyrum

General Description

The trail route for this segment of the NBST will begin at a trailhead just north of McKenzie Flat at the mouth of East Canyon and continue along the 5,100-foot contour elevation into Hyrum at the mouth of Blacksmith Fork Canyon (see maps 12 and 13 in Appendix G). The trail would be located in the foothills west of the Wasatch Cache National Forest.

Environmental Description

Slope

The slope aspect for this section of trail is west and can be described as rolling hills to steep escarpments.

Hydrology

The trail along the historic Lake Bonneville Shoreline will intersect several intermittent streams, a perennial stream at the base of East Canyon, and the Blacksmith Fork River east of Hyrum City.

Wildlife

The Blacksmith Fork Canyon Trailhead is located in Utah State Wildlife Reserve land, but the remainder of the trail does not contact any critical wildlife areas.

Geology

The trail parallels the Eastern Cache Fault on both sides along its entire length. The route does not contact any landslide areas.

Alternative A - 5,100-Foot Contour (8.5 Miles)

This alternative route will follow existing jeep roads east and north of Avon at the 5,100-foot elevation before crossing the mouth of Hyrum Canyon. The trail then continues north along the 5,100-foot contour into the Blacksmith Fork Canyon. The terrain along this segment of trail is relatively flat and offers excellent opportunities for a trail. The existing trails on the eastern foothills in this area are favorites to recreational users.



Ownership

The land along this section of trail is privately owned.

Trail Development Opportunities

- ❖ The trail will follow the 5,100-foot contour, which will minimize construction costs.
- ❖ The trail links Avon and Hyrum.

Trail Development Constraints

- ❖ The trail crosses private land, which raises the question of land use possibilities.
- ❖ In some sections the trail follows roads that allow motorized vehicles.

Trailheads

An established UDWR Trailhead is located near the mouth of Blacksmith Fork Canyon. This large parking area is easily accessed by trail users from the south and north.

- ❖ There are three trailhead possibilities along this stretch of trail. The trailhead at the opening of East Canyon will serve Avon and trail users coming from Highway 165. The Paradise City Park would be a possible link for the town to the NBST, and the trailhead located at the base of Blacksmith Fork Canyon will offer the ability to stop or start the trail system for residents of Hyrum.

Alternative B- PacifiCorp Powerline Corridor (8.2 Miles)

This alternative follows the powerline corridor easement that starts in the town of Paradise and continues north to the entrance to Blacksmith Fork Canyon. The wide corridor easement allows the trail to meander through the foothills instead of taking a bee-line from point A to point B. The powerline corridor is located high on the bench at or above the 5,000-foot contour. The route offers trail users a rolling hill terrain and great views of the southern end of Cache Valley.

Ownership

The property along this section of trail is privately owned.

Trail Development Opportunities

- ❖ The corridor easement and trail already exist and would not require extensive construction, and
- ❖ this segment of trail would link more urbanized areas to more natural areas including State lands.

Trail Development Constraints

- ❖ The powerline corridor is not contiguous through the entire segment limiting connections, and
- ❖ the trail is considerably high on the foothills and might be difficult to access.

Trailheads

The trailheads would be the same as described for Alternative A.

Other Trail Alignment Opportunities

Other opportunities include the jeep trails and unimproved roads leading out of Avon and Paradise east and into the eastern foothills. The Paradise and Hyrum Canals offer direct links into the towns and the possibility of intersecting the NBST.

Potential Trail Linkages

The links along this segment of trail consist of:

- ❖ the town of Avon,
- ❖ East Canyon,
- ❖ the Little Bear River,
- ❖ the town of Paradise,
- ❖ Paradise Dry Canyon,
- ❖ the City of Hyrum, and
- ❖ Blacksmith Fork Canyon and River.

